

Al-Mu'minah

The Believing Woman



A Bimonthly Newsletter Focusing on the Muslim Women's Issues

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INTRODUCTION

To every believing woman following, in her way to Allaah, the steps of the best women of humanity such as Khadija, 'Aisha and Asmaa'.

To every obedient wife who seeks, through her good treatment of her husband, to win the residence of the gardens of eternity on the day when wealth and children will not be of any help, and only those who come with a sound heart will be successful.

To every loving and tender mother who raises men and educates the coming generations to resemble Abu Bakr in his firmness, Umar in his strength,

Uthmaan in his modesty [*Hayaa*], 'Ali in his courage, Khaled in his devotion, Khadija in her kindness, 'Aisha in her *Fiqh* [understanding and knowledge of religion], and Asmaa' in her struggle.

To every sister who calls people to the Book of her Lord, to the Sunnah of her Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, and to the guidance of her pious *Salaf* (predecessors); who enjoins good and forbids evil; who acquires the useful knowledge and disseminates it in her society.

To all these we present this magazine, of humble beginnings may be, albeit of great benefit *insha'Allaah*.

And finally we ask Allaah to make this project the most sincere possible to Him, and to bestow upon us guidance and correctness in all we say and do, for He is the only One Who can help us in this difficult task since He is the Most Powerful, Lord of the Worlds.

(Your sisters & brothers
at Al-Mu'minah)

EDITORIAL



Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem

Verily, all praise is for Allaah. We praise Him seek His help and ask for His forgiveness.

We seek refuge in Allaah from evil within ourselves and from our evil actions. Whomsoever Allaah guides, will never be misled; whomsoever Allaah misguides, will never find enlightenment.

I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, having no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

O you who believe! Fear Allaah as He should be feared and die not except as Muslims.

[Aal-e-'Imraan/3; 102]

O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam) and from him, He created his wife (Eve) and from them both, He created many men and women; and fear Allaah through Whom you demand your mutual (rights) and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs. Surely, Allaah is ever an All-Watcher over you. [An-Nisa/4; 1]

O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him, and speak always the Truth. He will direct you to do righteous deeds and will forgive your sins. Whosoever obeys Allaah and His Messenger, has indeed attained a great achievement.

[Al-Ahzab/33; 70,71]

The best speech is the Book of Allaah; the best guidance is the guidance sent with Mohammad, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*; the worst of matters is *Bid'ah* (innovation in the religion); every *Bid'ah* is a sin, and every sin leads to the Hellfire.

My dear Muslim Sister, I greet you with the greeting of Islam....

As-salamu alaikum wa rahmatu llaahi wa barakaatuh.

It is with great happiness and joy that we give you, dear sister, this good news of the birth of a new born in the family of the Islamic media; it is your magazine that you have been awaiting for a long time, for which we have chosen the title "*al-Mu'minah*", The Believing Woman. We ask Allaah *Tabaraka wa Ta'ala* to bless this project and to decree for it steadfastness and continuity and to make it sincere to Him.

It has been our observation that the English Islamic media in North America has not given due importance and a continuous focused concern to issues related to Muslim women living in America. Thus, we took it upon ourselves at al-Qur'an was-Sunnah Society (QSS) to cover this void and publish an English language magazine that deals with women's issues in all aspects and fields covering *'Aqeedah, Fiqh, Manhaj, Da'wah*, behavior and manners,... etc. We hope and pray to Allaah to make this magazine a torch that will light the way of the Muslim woman of America to please her Lord as you, dear Muslim Sister, will find in your magazine, *al-Mu'minah*, articles based on pure knowledge from the Qur'an and the Sunnah as understood and practiced by the *Salaf us-Saaliheen*, the pious predecessors.

Therefore, it is to you, our dear sister, that we present this magazine and our hopes and wishes are that its words will have an echo in your heart and you will become, by the will of Allaah, among the group of people upon whom the Prophet Mohammad, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, said:

"The example of what Allaah has sent me with is like of the rain that came down on a land part of which is good and fertile where grass and vegetation grow"; or at least among the group about whom he said, "and part of it is dry but stores and retains water and Allaah makes it beneficial for people who drink from it and use it for cultivation."

And we do not want to see any Muslim woman be part of the remaining group about whom the Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, said:

"And another part of it was like a wide open plain which does not retain water and does not allow grass to grow".

Indeed he said about the first and second groups:

"That is like the one who understood the religion of Allaah and benefited from what Allaah sent me with, he learnt it and taught it to others." And he said about the third group:

"The last example are those who neither raised their heads and learnt it [the religion] nor accepted Allaah's guidance that I was sent with."

[Part of a Hadeeth in Bukhari and Muslim]

Finally, we call on you, dear sister, after reading the first issue of *al-Mu'minah*, to help us, in any way convenient to you, to make this magazine reach

you and reach all Muslim women you know. And we ask you to help us with your suggestions, advice, and constructive criticism based on the guidance of our beloved Prophet Mohammad, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, who said:

"And Allaah is still helping the servant as long as the servant is helping his brother."

OBSERVATIONS

Is *Niqab* (Veil) & Segregation Really an Obstacle for Women ?

In the magazine *The Economist* dated February 4, 1995, on page 39 under the title "Saudi Arabia, Silent Revolution" there was an article regarding the practice of veil in Saudi Arabia and the business occupation of women. I was so elated that I am summarizing some relevant sections here.

"A Silent Revolution behind the veil in Saudi Arabia. While their husbands wasted the gold of the oil in buying weapons and building palaces, their wives and daughters were accumulating little big moneys. In the current financial crisis that is hitting the kingdom, this "feminine/female" wealth could bring about change more effectively than any public show of frustration."

Some numbers to wonder about:

- ☑ As much as 40% of Saudi private wealth is in female hands...
- ☑ A quarter of the property in Riyadh, the capital, and half the property in Jeddah, the second city, is owned by women...
- ☑ More than 2000 women are registered with the Riyadh chamber of commerce...

☑ In a shopping mall in Jeddah, 8 out of 20 shops are owned and run by women (Notices forbid men to enter the shops women run!) ...

☑ One or two women operate large businesses, but are careful to keep a low profile ...

☑ The vast majority of women in the Arabian Peninsula wear *Niqab* especially in Saudi Arabia and Yemen...



Also in the book "Saudi Arabia: A country study" by Eleanor Doumato et alia¹ there were a few statistics that seemed highly encouraging:

➤ The level of female graduates has increased tenfold from 1674 in 1975 to 1821 in 1989

➤ Saudi Arabia's Fifth Development Plan projects 45,000 female graduates this year but only 38,000 male graduates

➤ In 1984 there were 12,000 women enrolled in the 7000 female colleges of education ...

... In 1989 the number of graduates from all the kingdoms colleges and universities was roughly the same: about 7,000 each ...

... Between 1983 and 1989 the number of university students increased from 58,000 to 113,000 which is a 95 percent increase ... The rate of increase for women was greater than the overall—women's enrollment increased from 20,300 to 47,000 in the same period which makes their rate of increase to be 132 percent!

➤ In 1990, King Abdulaziz University graduated 15,000 undergraduates one-third of whom were women

➤ In 1984, Ummul-Quraa University graduated 7,500 undergraduates -- 51 percent of whom were women

All of this dramatic change, however, one thing was even more remarkable as observed by the author: "The practices of veiling and separation, and the values underlying these practices, however, were not being dislodged."

As we can see, and contrary to Western belief, Muslim women can be very successful while sticking to the commandments of their Lord and the laws of their Deen.

My dear Muslim Sisters, pay attention to these pieces of reports by the *kuffaar*

(westerners). And as it is said in Arabic "*wal-Haqqu maa shahida bihi al-A`daa'u*" - Truth is what was witnessed by the enemy.

Never think that *hijab* (*niqab* being part of it) is an obstacle to your emancipation. How can it be so when it is Allaah who has prescribed it for you; it is Allaah who wants good for you more than you want it for yourself; it is Allaah, The Most Merciful, who commanded it on you; and it is Allaah, The Most Wise and The Most Knowledgeable, who made it mandatory on you for nothing but to make you happy in this worldly life and in the Hereafter.

Be careful not to follow those who call for the appearance of women among men; who call you directly or indirectly to mingle with men; who want to take you out of your home and out of your *hijab* [your home

being part of your *hijab*] by playing on your emotions and by saying that the society is breathing from one lung only, or saying half the society is jobless and inactive, or by calling you to compete with men in leadership by giving you examples such as Margaret Thatcher, Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi, Edith Creysson!

They only want to strip from you the nature that Allaah has perfectly created you in and that is of Daughter, Sister, Wife, and Mother. Their aim is to leave you confused; finding yourself having lost the characteristics of a dignified and respected Muslim woman on one hand, and having not reached the level of men on the other. [In those western countries who claim equality and liberty and freedom, salaries of men are still higher than those of women for the same kind of job,

politics and leadership is still controlled by men ... !]

And above all, they want to strip from you what Allaah has created you for and that is to worship Him. My Dear Muslim Sister, follow the Sunnah of the Prophet *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam* and the practice of his wives, Mothers of the believers, may Allaah be pleased with them. Allaah said in what translated means :

"It is not for a believing man or woman, when Allaah and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should have any option in their decision. And whoever disobeys Allaah and His Messenger, he has indeed strayed in a plain error."

[Al-Ahzab/33, 36]

(1) Eleanor Doumato et alia, *Saudi Arabia: A country study*, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, 1993.

[It is sponsored by the US Army (in fact they have a whole series of similar books)].

Acknowledgment: Statistics provided by Sr. N. Jihan (Syracuse, NY)



A REMINDER FOR THE MUSLIM WOMAN

A call from Masjidul-Haram [Makkah] to the Muslim Women of the World

(The wasiyyah of ash-Shaikh Abdur-Rahmane as-Sudais)

My Muslim Sister, you will never be able to reach the perfection that you desire, you won't be able to regain your lost glory of the past, or achieve your highest rank and position unless you follow the teachings of Islam and unless you stop at the limits

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and boundaries of the *shariah*. This will make your heart love and appreciate the good qualities and will keep you away from bad and evil qualities.

So stay at your home. By Allaah you will be praised; you will please your household and

make your home happy; you will perfect your *hijab*; you will perfect your chastity, relieve others and you will make yourself happy and comfortable.

Allaah says (in the meaning of) :

"O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over their bodies. That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed. And Allaah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

[Al-Ahzab/33, 59]

So with Islam you are a "protected jewel", but without it you are a doll in the hands of the wrong-doers; a mere object of amusement and a merchandise of trade in the hands of human wolves who will destroy your chastity, your honor and your dignity, and then throw you and disregard you as one does with a date fruit and its seed.

So whenever the woman abandons the teachings of Islam and neglects the proper Islamic dress and takes easy the matter of *hijab*, exposing herself to men (by) walking among them and wearing perfume, her dignity and honor vanishes and her brightness disappears, and her modesty dwindles, and she becomes a source of *fitnah* (temptation and trial) for others and the "evils" embrace her. Therefore, O Muslim woman, who cherishes and holds on to the honor of Islam [and is proud of the honor of Islam], and O free, honorable, chaste and protected woman, you are the best successor of the best past generation of Muslims. Hold fast to the book of Allaah and to the *Sunnah* (way and teachings) of His Prophet *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*.

Beware of the hands of the wicked plotters and the jealous eyes, and people with bad

character and evil souls, who want to lower you from the highness of your esteemed position and dignity, and lower you from your glory of higher rank, and take you out from the circle of your happiness. And beware of the deception and defeat before the open war between *hijab* and *sufoor* (revealing beauty), and between chastity and liberalism.

The enemies of Islam among the Jews and their followers are upset and sleepless over the fact that the Muslim woman is honorable, dignified and protected, so they put her under the spotlight, trap her in [fishermen-like] nets and shoot her with their arrows. Moreover, it is strange that some people from our skin and who speak our language follow them and spread their ideas and fulfill their aims, and wage an intellectual and cultural war against our Muslim sisters, who are the moisture of our faces, through the alluring and deceiving slogans and the charming articles here and there. Thus, they falsely and deceptively call to the freedom of the woman and ask [and push] her to work, to coming out of her home. They spread rumors about Muslim women saying "... the conservative Muslim society [the real one indeed, the Muslim society can only be conservative] is that which half of it does nothing and breathes only from one lung..., and how can the Muslim woman stay prisoner at home between four walls ...", and other misleading slogans.

What do these people want from her and what are their goals?

They want freedom for the woman, but in reality they want to free her from her character and etiquette, and to strip her from her principles, dignity and honor, and lead her into evil and corruption. They want her to be a fashion model and an item for sale to the naive and simple-minded (*assuthajj wal busataa*).

Who is then left to the well-being of homes; to the happiness of the family; to raise and educate children?

Tell me for the sake of your Lord!

How many young women get trapped and how much tragedy happens when the *hijab* is destroyed and the *jilbab* (outer garment) is taken off and the "wolves" (wicked men) devour the woman. Such is as a result of *sufoor* and mingling with men in jobs, schools, and market places.

Isn't it enough *zajr* (reminder) what the societies, who did not practice the teachings of Islam, fell into in terms of indecency, evils, and disappearance of values when they neglected and ignored the matter of the woman? As a result of that, there are now repeated calls in these societies asking for the return of the woman to her protected fort; her home.

Would any man with the slightest bit of *ghairah* (honor) and *rujoolah* (manhood) be content to see his wife become a "pasturage" of the eyes of the wicked men, and to become a "serving on the dining table". The current condition of some societies is a witness that when the woman goes out of her home, it is a sign of destruction,

loss, corruption, and spread of indecency and mischief in society.

Therefore, to all our Muslim Sisters in the east and in the west of the Muslim world, I call upon you from this holy and pure land [Makkah] to hold fast to the Qur'an and to bite onto the Sunnah of His Messenger, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, with the front teeth, and to follow the teachings of Islam and its *adaab* (etiquette).

And to the women organizations all over the world, beware of the stupidity and bad results of the disobedience of the woman to the guidance of Islam. Beware of being tempted by the flashing slogans and poisoned publicity against the character of the woman and her principles.

And to the people responsible for the Muslim child in her education and care, I call upon you to fear Allaah and to fulfill your duty towards her while taking care of her belief, educational and ethical aspects.

A clear limit and divider (boundary) must be set against indecency, wicked movies and naked pictures that destroy honor and virtue and that

develop *dayaathah* (absence of honor and manhood to the point where a man does not care about the females of his family in terms of what other men may do with them) and indecency.

As to the guardians of women, fathers and husbands, I remind them of their duty of *qawaamah* (protection and maintenance) of women according to what Allaah said :

"Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allaah has made the one of them to excel the other, and because they spend (to support them) from their means. Therefore, the righteous women are devoutly obedient (to Allaah and to their husbands), and guard in the husband's absence what Allaah orders them to guard. As to those women on whose part you see ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly, if it is useful), but if they return to obedience, seek not against them means (of annoyance). Surely, Allaah is Ever Most High, Most Great."

[An-Nisa/4, 34]

So they have to fear Allaah, and save themselves and their children from the punishment of Allaah by raising and educating them according to the teachings of Islam, and they should be warned from being loose and neglectful in this matter. I call on their *ghairah* (honor) towards their women and their *rujoolah* (manhood) in order to preserve the honor and to protect their *mahram* women, in addition to protecting their values, principles and characters.

So, O wise people, take a lesson, and be aware and don't be deceived for the successful is the one who is reminded through [the mistakes of] others, and know that the *Ummah* reached this sad state and crisis only after it was hit in its system of life and when it neglected the appropriate education and upbringing of its women. And remember that the trustworthy and trusted [the Prophet] *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, said: "I haven't left behind me a *fitnah* more harmful to men than women [when they go astray from the guidance of Islam]. [Bukhari and Muslim]"

Acknowledgment: This article was translated to English by Sr. Abier Abdelhamid AbdelNaby from NJ.



WOMEN OF PARADISE

Part I: "The Black Woman"

We often hear speakers in Friday prayer or in admonitions talking about Paradise and all of us find our hearts, minds and thoughts tuned on to that "frequency". However, majority of the speakers talk about Paradise as if it were a house for men only. Reality is not like that. Paradise is for the believing men and women. The only price for it is sound belief in Allaah, love of Allaah and His Messenger *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, and obedience to Allaah and His Messenger *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*.

In what follows are the glad tidings given by the Messenger of Allaah *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, to some of the women among his companions.

➤ Narrated 'Aisha *radhiya Allaahu anha*: I did not feel jealous of any of the wives of the Prophet as much as I did of Khadija (although) she died before he married me, for I often heard him mentioning her, and Allaah had told him to give her the good tidings that she would have a palace of *Qasab* (i.e. pipes of precious stones and pearls in Paradise), and whenever he slaughtered a sheep, he would send her women-friends a good share of it. [Sahih al-Bukhari]

➤ Anas reports that the Messenger of Allaah, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, said:

"The best women of mankind are four: Mariam daughter of 'Imraan, Assiya wife of Pharaoh, Khadija daughter of Khuwailid, and Fatima the daughter of the Messenger of Allaah."

[Bukhari and Muslim]

➤ Narrated Abu Huraira:

Jibreel (Gabriel) came to the Prophet and said, "O Allaah's Apostle! This is Khadija coming to you with a dish having meat soup (or some food or drink). When

**Paradise is for
believing men
and women.**

she reaches you, greet her on behalf of her Lord (i.e. Allaah) and on my behalf, and give her the glad tidings of having a *Qasab* (palace in Paradise) wherein there will be neither any noise nor any fatigue (trouble)." [al-Bukhari]

➤ Narrated 'Ata bin Abi Rabah:

Ibn 'Abbas said to me, "Shall I show you a woman of the people of Paradise?" I said, "Yes." He said, "This black woman came to the Prophet and said, 'I get attacks of epilepsy and my body becomes uncovered; please invoke Allaah for me.' The Prophet said (to her), 'If you wish, be patient and you will have (enter) Paradise; and if you wish, I will invoke Allaah to cure you.' She said, 'I will remain patient,' and added, 'but I become uncovered, so please invoke Allaah for me that I may not become uncovered.' So he invoked Allaah for her." [al-Bukhari]

The aforementioned ahadeeth clearly state the stature of some of the women given the glad tidings of *Jannah* (Paradise). What can the women of today do in order to achieve that pinnacle of success, Paradise?

To do so one MUST learn how these women lived, how they behaved, how they spoke, how they dressed, how they walked, etc.

In this issue of *al-Mu'minah* we will try to learn from the black woman mentioned in the last Hadith, *insha'Allaah*.

The black woman is not even known by her name, or her exact whereabouts, rather she is known by her deeds, her faith, her modesty, her chastity, and for her being an inmate of Paradise. And, in the end, that is what matters most.

When Abdullah Ibn Abbas *radhiya Allaahu anhu* said "this black woman", he did not mean to point at her race or to belittle her in any way. Indeed, he but meant to teach the people around him a great principle of Islam which is mentioned in the verse, [in the meaning of]:

"O people! We have created you from a man and a woman and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know each other, verily the most honorable among you in the sight of Allaah are the most pious."

The same principle is mentioned in the Hadith:

"Allaah does not look at your pictures (shapes) and bodies but He looks at your hearts (and your deeds)." [Muslim]

She (the black woman) was physically sick, yet she sought cure in the *du'a* of the Messenger of Allaah, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*. She knew that the one

who cures, *ash-Shaafee*, is Allaah, and Allaah would answer the *du'a* of His Messenger *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*. We conclude from that that *du'a* heals all diseases be they of the body or of the heart. When commenting on this Hadith, al-Hafidh Ibn Hajar said: "It is inferred from this hadith that the cure of diseases through *du'a* and supplication to Allaah (*wa al-iltijaa' ilaa Allaah*) is the most successful way of healing, but this cannot be fulfilled unless two conditions are satisfied: pure intention and sincere trust in the effectiveness of the *du'a*, and righteousness and reliance on Allaah.

The fact that the Prophet *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam* said: "If you wish, be patient and you will have (enter) Paradise" is a proof for the virtue and reward of patience during sickness. In another Hadith, he, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, says:

"Whenever a hardship affects the Muslim, he will be forgiven for it even when he is picked by a spike." [Muslim]

And in another Hadith, also narrated by Muslim, Ummu as-Sa'ib cursed fever, to which the Prophet *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam* told her: "Do not curse fever, for it takes away the sins like the blaze [fire] takes away the impurities of iron."

The black women preferred the suffering of this world to getting the eternal reward of Paradise! She suffered from sickness, yet her pain and discomfort did not force her to forego pleasing Allaah! And no matter who one is, if one is in the path of Allaah, one will encounter difficulties, because Paradise is rounded by hardships.

If things are easy and life is rosy, then one must check oneself; are we following the true

Islam? Especially in this western environment it may be difficult for a young woman to wear the dress of modesty, the *hijab* (even though it is mandatory), not to talk to men and keep away from them (which is also mandatory), except if necessary. All these may be difficult to achieve for some in the beginning, but when one overcomes herself for the sake of Allaah, then all the other obstacles become baseless.

So, how to overcome oneself? By knowing Allaah by His names and attributes; by loving and obeying Allaah and His Messenger, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*; and then the help of Allaah will come, *insha'Allaah*.

She (the black woman) preferred being patient, but could not tolerate that her honor, her modesty and her chastity be damaged or even touched, nor that any part of her body be uncovered, though she had no control over it. Indeed she was a real slave and servant of Allaah; she was a faithful, a believer, a *Muslimah*, a righteous and pious woman, a truthful woman, and she was loyal to Allaah and His Messenger, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*. Not only having these awe-inspiring qualities, she was also a wise and a great woman, as her memorable words rang ...:

"... but I become uncovered, so please invoke Allaah for me that I may not become uncovered."

If words are to be written in Gold, these words should be written in gold ...

Remember this simple equation:

**Iman + Suffering + Patience =
Paradise**

It can also be inferred that the righteous Muslim woman

inherently loves to be covered, loves modesty and chastity and hates revealing her body and her beauty. The black woman, *radhiya Allaahu 'anha* could sustain being so sick but could not bear to be uncovered in front of people.

The issue, one must understand, is not of black or white or Arab or non-Arab, rich or poor, noble[with lineage] or not, it is rather of a creed so deeply rooted in the hearts of Muslims like blood flows in the arteries and veins of people. They are those who are totally committed to Islam.

Fourteen Hundred years of history showed that Muslim women could sustain hunger, poverty, sickness but could never sustain disobeying Allaah. The wife would tell her husband when leaving for work: "Fear Allaah in us, for we can sustain hunger and thirst but we cannot sustain Hell fire [i.e. do not acquire unlawful earning]."

Dear sisters, ask yourself what made Khadija *radhiya Allaahu 'anha* be greeted by Allaah *Subhanahu wa Ta'ala* and by Jibreel *alaihi as-Salaam*. Ask yourself what made Khadija be rewarded a Palace in Jannah as no one can imagine.

Reading the biography of Khadija and others like her in greatness, one would wish to be at their service; to carry their shoes, wash their clothes, to serve them in any possible way and get *du'a* from them.

It is sad that we just don't know the great personalities of this Ummah. If only we strive to study the lives of the righteous that preceded us, we would find in them immense guidance for our existence, and if we know them and follow them we could be in the forefront of mankind ...

It is said, "*Iman* (faith) is not by hope, it is rather what occurs in the heart and is proved by the deeds [*maa waqa'a fil qalbi wa saddaqahul-'amal*]."

We leave you to think about this and pray to Allaah to make us all among the dwellers of Paradise and to bestow upon us the faith and the patience that lead us to Paradise. And to bless the present Muslim Ummah with many women like the black woman, *radhiya Allaahu 'anha* (may Allaah be pleased with her), who help us focus on the straight path ...

Acknowledgment: Some of the ideas were expressed in an article written by Haled Abu Sail which appeared in the Da'wah magazine, Iss. 1514, page 32.

THE RECIPE CORNER

CHICKEN TIKKA!

A favorite of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent, "Chicken Tikka" has long since infiltrated the ranks of food-lovers throughout the world. It is of little surprise then, that even some Pizza Hut restaurants in London, England sport Chicken Tikka topping for pizzas! You will find it on the menu from traditional Pakistani and Indian restaurants all across the USA, as well as dotted on the Asian-European restaurant trails.

Quick and easy, yet delicious, this delight blends into any occasion; from a casual dinner selling to a wedding feast. It will also satisfy a tongue attuned to any level of "chili tolerance", from mild to hot, with appropriate use of red chili powder.

INGREDIENTS:

2 chicken quarters
1/2 cup yogurt
1 teaspoon red chili powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ginger & garlic paste
1 teaspoon lemon juice
a pinch of red food color

METHOD:

Make cuts on the chicken. Mix spices; add the mix to the yogurt and cover the chicken with the yogurt. Marinade for four to five hours. You can either barbecue or bake it in an oven. To bake, place chicken in an oven-proof dish, bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes or until tender. Optional: turn over and broil the pieces until golden brown.

Women's Forum

I would like to share with my dear sisters a thought about time management. Many of us [sisters] live day to day, spending countless hours and extreme energy taking care of our children, husbands and homes. May Allaah bless us with strength for it is our Jihad. The Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam* said the Jihad for women was Hajj and 'Umrah. He also said it [women's Jihad] was pregnancy and child-birth. Also, as part of striving in the path of Allaah, for women, is the education and training of the next generation of Muslims.

Thus, we must remember this when we are stretched to the utmost, for striving in the path of Allaah is not meant to be easy, and we must also be careful not to confuse lack of time for laziness. The Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam* said: "*Live in the morning as though you don't expect to live until the evening, and live in the evening as though you don't expect to live until the next morning*".

Do I hear a few sounds of protest calling not enough time? Perhaps, but isn't it true that you regularly watch TV, stay on the phone needlessly, spend unnecessary time in the mall, etc ...

We must remember that Jannah [Paradise] is not cheap, and in order to raise really good Muslim children, we must first become the best examples we can be for them. *al-Hamdulillahu Rabbil 'alameen*.

Ummu Muaath (Toledo, OH)

FATAWA



Dear Sister!

This corner is dedicated to answers (fatawa) to questions asked of scholars by Muslim women regarding issues pertaining to the daily life of a Muslim woman. Reading this corner you may find answers to queries you might have been wondering about, or answers to questions you might have found a sister inquiring. We advise you to keep track of your questions and concerns and direct them to us, and we will insha'Allaah submit them to scholars for responses.

We ask you to be as specific as possible and not be shy or embarrassed to ask; upon your request, your anonymity will be respected. But what is important is that the correct methodology be sought so that costly errors can be avoided, insha'Allaah.

The Editors

Zakat on the gold a woman uses for beauty

Q. Should there be any Zakat on the gold a woman uses for beauty only and not for trade?

A. There is a disagreement among scholars regarding the obligation of giving Zakat on the gold of women that is not used for trade if its amount reached the Nisab¹. However, the correct and sound ruling is that there is Zakat on that Gold that reached Nisab even if it is used for beauty only.

The Nisab for gold is 20 units [85 grams] and its monetary value is "(2)". The Nisab of silver is 140 units [595 grams] and its monetary value is "(2)". If the weight of [the pure] gold and silver in the jewelry is less than that there is no Zakat except if it is used for trade. In such a case [if it is used for trade] Zakat has to be performed if its value reached the Nisab.

The proof of the obligation of Zakat on the golden and silver jewelry used for beauty is derived from the general statement of the Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*: "Any owner of gold and silver who does not give its Zakat will be burnt by plates of fire on his sides, front and back on the Day of Judgment."

There is also the Hadith of Abdullah Ibn 'Amr Ibn al-'Aas, *radhiya Allaahu 'anhu*, that a woman came to the Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, and her daughter was wearing a pair of golden bracelets in her hand. He said: *Do you give the Zakat of this [the golden bracelets]? She said: No! He then said: Would you be pleased that Allaah punishes you for that on the Day of Judgment by imposing on you bracelets of fire?* She took them out and said: They are for Allaah and His Messenger. [Narrated by Abu Dawud and Tirmithi with a *hasan* (sound) *sanad* (chain of narration)]

There is also the Hadith of Ummu Salamah, *radhiya Allaahu 'anha*, that she used to wear golden bracelets. She said: *O Messenger of Allaah! Is this hoarding? [in reference to ayah 9-34]* He said: *Whatever reached the prescribed amount for Zakat and its Zakat was paid is not considered as hoarding.* [Abu Dawud] and Daraqutni, al-Hakim said it is *Sahih* (authentic). Thus the Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*, did not tell her there is no Zakat in Jewelry. However, what is reported from the Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam* as saying: "There is no Zakat in Jewelry" is a weak *Hadith* that cannot be used to contradict the general ruling and the authentic *Ahadiith* [some of which were mentioned].

Shaikh Ibn Baaz

(1) Nisab is the minimum required amount of gold, silver, money, cattle for Zakat to be mandatory.

(2) The original Fatwa states the equivalent in Saudi Riyal, the Muslim woman has to contact local gold/jewelry businesses or banks to get the \$ value of 85 grams of gold or 595 grams of silver at the time of giving Zakat as these equivalents change during the year and it is not wise to give a fixed amount here in America.

The wife is not to be given the responsibility of hard and tiresome work

Q. I read in a newspaper a *Fatwa* by a scholar, where he said that it is not mandatory for a wife to serve her husband because he married her for enjoyment and not service. However, if she serves him, it is only out of the kindness and to keep a good relationship. He also said that the husband

must provide servants for his wife, if she does not serve him or is not capable of serving herself for any reason. Is this Fatwa true?

A. This Fatwa is not right, and should not be taken into consideration. The *Sahabiyat* [Muslim women at the time of the prophet *salla Allaahu alaihi wasallam*] used to serve their husbands. Among them are Asmaa', daughter of Abu Bakr, who mentioned her service to az-Zubair Ibn al-'Awwam, and Fatima [daughter of the Prophet, *salla Allaahu alaihi wa sallam*] who served her husband, 'Ali, may Allaah be pleased with them and others. Until now, the common belief and practice among Muslims has been that the wife serves her husband, the usual service such as preparing food, washing clothes and dishes, cleaning the house and caring for the animals, milking them, harvesting and other similar tasks appropriate to one's environment. This has been the practice from the time of the prophethood, until now without anyone objecting it. However, the wife should not be given any duties that are hard and tiresome for her, but duties should be restricted to her capability.

Shaikh Ibn Jibreen

Worship of a woman who has just given birth if she becomes *tahira* (ceases to bleed from birth) within the forty days after birth

Q. Is it permissible for a woman, who has just given birth to fast, pray, and make Hajj, before the forty days after the birth are over if she becomes *tahira*?

A. Yes. It is permissible for her to fast, pray, perform Hajj and have intercourse with her husband, before the completion of the forty days if she becomes *tahira*. For instance, if she becomes *tahira* after twenty days, she should take *Ghusl* (purifying shower), pray, fast and may have intercourse with her husband. However, what was reported of Othman Ibn Abi-l-'Aas, was that he disliked this. That does not mean it is not permissible (i.e. it can be understood as a *Makrooh*) and this is an *Ijtihad* from him, may Allaah have mercy on him.

The correct answer is that if a woman becomes *tahira* before forty days, her *tuhr* (state of not bleeding) is sound and valid and if she bleeds within the forty days the correct ruling is that she should

Al-Mu'minah

take it as post-child birth blood if it is within the forty days, however, her fasting, prayer, and Hajj during the period of *tuhr* are all valid and she should not make it up as long as it was performed during a period of *Tuhr*.

Shaikh Ibn Baaz

The Hukm [ruling] on bleeding after *Ghusl* is performed and menstruation is over

Q. After I complete my menstruation cycle, I take *ghusl*. However, sometimes I bleed a little bit immediately after *Ghusl* and then it stops. I do not know if I should follow my regular cycle period of five days and ignore the post period bleeding and pray and fast, or should I consider that day of unusual bleeding as part of my regular period and thus would not pray and fast during that day. I want to draw to your attention that this does not occur to me regularly but once after two or three cycles.

A. If what comes down after *tuhr* is yellowish or brownish, then it should not be considered as part of the menstruation, and it has the *hukm* of urine (i.e. only invalidates wudoo and is *najis* [unclean] in itself). However, if it is clear blood then it must be considered as part of menstruation, and you have to take *ghusl* again. This is based on the report of Ummu 'Atiyya [a Sahabiya], may Allaah be pleased with her, who said:

"We used to not count the yellowish or the brownish after *tuhr* as being part of menstruation."

Shaikh Ibn Baaz

YOUR HEALTH

Any journal aimed at improving our life would be incomplete without a health section. Whereas some segments in this magazine re devoted to increasing or *emaan* and *taqwa*, i.e. curing our soul, this segment will deal more with treating our bodies, *insha'Allaah*.

In the coming months we will consider health issues that are particular to us, focusing on breast cancer, cervical cancer, general hygiene,

osteoporosis, and so on. We invite sisters to write in with their personal experiences of disease and how they dealt with these difficulties. In this

manner we aim to please Allaah by helping each other.



COMING ATTRACTIONS ... !

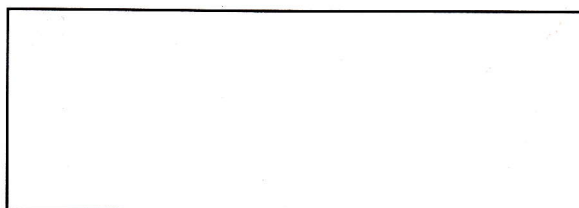
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- Fatawa
- Recipe & Health Corners ... !